



San Diego City Attorney **CASEY GWINN**

MEDIA RELEASE

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SMOG INSPECTION SHOP OWNER AND MANAGER PROSECUTED

The owner and the manager of a San Diego smog inspection and gasoline station paid \$13,000 in civil penalties, costs, and other monetary relief to settle an environmental protection lawsuit filed by the San Diego City Attorney's Office. The lawsuit alleged that Ahmad "Edward" Bagdasar, the owner of "Downtown Shell Service" and his brother, Steve Bagdasar, the manager, committed various violations of California's SMOG test laws.

An investigation by the California Bureau of Automotive Repair revealed that the defendants allowed an employee who was not properly trained or licensed to conduct SMOG inspection tests on vehicles. Once notified of the violations, the defendants corrected the violations and cooperated with the Bureau's investigation.

Under the terms of the San Diego Superior Court judgment, a portion of the money paid by the defendants will be used for Supplemental Environmental Projects, or "SEPs." The projects include providing specialized equipment to law enforcement agencies for use in detecting violations of environmental laws, and other equipment to a local community college for teaching students correct SMOG test procedures. The defendants are also required to print and mail at least 600 notices (see attached) for posting at SMOG inspection shops throughout San Diego.

City Attorney Casey Gwinn said his office is committed to the enforcement of California's environmental protection laws. "The lack of adequate training and supervision by SMOG inspection business owners and managers often results in increased pollution," Gwinn said, "and also harms those owners who devote time and resources to provide proper training."

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